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ABSTRACT

Among the Internet's many resources is the World Wide Web, a global network of information servers provided by individuals, organizations, businesses, and federal agencies who are offering documents, data, images, and interactive sessions. For teachers, students, and parents this means access to information not in textbooks or the local library, fast-breaking news, ideas for lessons and activities, and collaboration with others on projects of mutual interest. This digest provides an annotated listing of Web resources relating to environmental education. Though not an exhaustive list of what is available, these sites represent a range of resources and are excellent places to begin a journey through the web of interconnected sites. The list is organized by the following categories: (1) Comprehensive Sites; (2) Special Interest Sites; (3) For Parents and Kids; (4) For Teachers and Classrooms; and (5) Directories. (JRH)

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Environmental Education Resources on the World Wide Web

by
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Environmental Education Resources on the World Wide Web

Linda A. Milbourne & David L. Haury

September 1996

ERIC Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education DIGEST

The best aspect of the Internet has nothing to do with technology. It's us. Steven Levy

If 1995 was The "Year of the Internet" (*Newsweek*, Jan. 1, 1996), for educators it is quickly becoming the era of information-on-demand and collaboration-at-a-distance. Among the Internet's many resources is the World Wide Web, a global network of information "servers" provided by individuals, organizations, businesses, and federal agencies who are offering documents, data, images, and interactive sessions. For teachers, students, and parents, this means access to information not in textbooks or the local library, fast-breaking news, ideas for lessons and activities, and, best of all, collaboration with others on projects of mutual interest.

Here we provide an annotated listing of Web resources relating to environmental education. Though not an exhaustive list of what is available, these sites represent the range of resources, and they are excellent places to begin your own journey through the web of interconnected sites.

Comprehensive Sites

Internet Directory for Environmental Education

http://www.nceet.snre.umich.edu

Sponsored by the National Consortium for Environmental Education and Training (NCEET), this site provides access to many environmental education-related organizations and resources, including NCEET's own materials, the EE Toolbox for inservice providers, and activities on many topics, including Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Air Quality and Climate Change, Water Quality, Ecosystems and Conservation, Energy, Ecology and Wildlife, and Toxics and Waste Management. The site also offers contacts, references, regional information, and a directory. Useful to students, teachers, and others in K-12 environmental education.

The Environmental Education Network

http://www.envirolink.org/enviroed

The Environmental Education Network (EEN) offers the world's largest on-line environmental information clearinghouse with a search mechanism that allows users to browse EE-Link to find instructional materials, articles, funding sources, networking opportunities, publications, conference proceedings, and more. A useful tool for environmentalists, educators, parents, and students. Sponsored by The National Consortium for Environmental Education and Training.

Special Interest Sites

Rainforest Action Network

http://www.ran.org/ran

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) works to protect Earth's rainforests and support the rights of inhabitants through education, grassroots efforts, and non-violent direct action. Its outreach program encourages young people (from first graders to college students) to become involved in saving rainforests. The Website includes an abundance of materials for young people, educational resources for teachers, and information about people indigenous to rainforests. RAN is currently producing a Kids' Action Guide and a Tree-Free Action Packet to be distributed free to teachers and children nationwide.

World Wildlife Fund

http://www.panda.org/kids/index.htm

One of the world's widest-ranging environmental organizations established this site to provide information about global issues, from climate changes and polluted seas to endangered forests and animals. Resources include news updates and action advisories, ideas on teaching earth stewardship, and lots of images and sound clips, such as ocean waves and bird sounds. Track down pertinent publications, links, research findings and reports, and sources to help the planet. A detailed map shows where the various WWF offices, campaigns, and programs are headquartered around the world. A new section, the Kids and Teachers area, provides educational and fun materials for all ages. Valuable to educators, students, environmentalists, and naturalists.

Sea World

http://www.bev.net/education/SeaWorld/

Sea World is famous for its dolphins and whales, but you can also learn about vampire bats, polar bears, gorillas, and manatees at this home page. Read weird and interesting facts about creatures in the sea and on land for your next science project. If you like sea life, you can research a career in marine mammal science. There are also fun games to play, pictures to color, and photographs of your favorite beasts. There are lots of great pictures at this site, along with movies and sound clips, too. This site will appeal to students, teachers, scientists, and animal lovers.

Hawaii Sea Grant Global Change Education Home Page

http://www.aloha.net/~edh/gcen.htm

How do you teach kids about greenhouse gases or ozone depletion? What is sustainable development and how will it affect your students' lives in years to come? Teachers can make environmental science accessible and understandable to young people with a few strategic tools, all available here. This site links users to hundreds of curriculum topics, online graphing and manipulation, and downloadable data sets for use in class. The Calendar of Events lists upcoming workshops, conferences, talks, and field trips for teachers and students on subjects such as global change, sustainable development, and marine science. Join the Global Change Education Information List to chat with like-minded educators across the USA. This site is of particular value to educators, ecologists, environmental scientists, and students.

National Wildlife Federation

http://www.nwf.org/

Find action! Adventure! Entertainment! Excitement! Stuff for kids! All while promoting conservation. That's the promise of this peppy site. Create a nature paradise in your backyard. Learn about joint ventures with businesses, current conservation campaigns, NWF sponsored outings, TV shows, merchandise, and publications. Resources include: Animal Tracks On-Line, a collection of environmental education lessons and activities for classrooms or youth groups; the NatureQuest training program for environmental educators; Schoolyard Habitats (invite wildlife to school grounds); NWF For Kids with a Cool Tour of the Environment; a quiz; games; and more. Environmentalists, policy makers, educators, students, business professionals, and journalists will find this site valuable.

River Resource

http://www.highlands.com/RiverResource/

A place to study river resources, with connections to facts, books, and others studying rivers. Resources of the site can be searched using keywords, and there are links to classrooms with information to share about specific rivers.

National Energy Foundation

http://www.xmission.com:80/~nef/

A nonprofit provider of educational materials and programs related to energy, natural resources, and the environment, the NEF is supported by businesses, government agencies, associations, and the education community. This site offers a catalog of materials, free natural gas education materials, and links to related Websites.

For Parents and Kids

Kids Web—Environmental Science

http://www.infomall.org/kidsweb/environment.html

Part of The Living Textbook Project, this site provides links to government environmental agencies from the United States, Canada, and Australia, as well as an online oceanography exhibit from the Smithsonian. Some linked sites

focus on government policies, scientific research, activism, or conservation. Special topics include wetlands research and school projects. Students, conservationists, ecologists, environmental scientists, and teachers will find this site useful.

Junior Environments

http://www.wwfcanada.org/kids/k-001.html

The World Wildlife Fund Canada shows what you can do to help make a difference at school, at home, and in the community. Find project ideas and resources such as a complete list of Canada's Endangered Species and other Wildlife at Risk, fact sheets for many Canadian species (and some international ones), and updates on wildlife issues. Useful to students and teachers.

Kid's Stuff: Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

http://www.epa.gov/OW/OGWDW/kids/

Activities at this site include: Children's Project: Build your own Water Cycle! Teach Kids About the Water Treatment Process; Word Scramble; Word Search (English and Spanish); Bloopers: Embarrassing moments in the life of a water drinker; and The Water Cycle at Work (Animated!). Sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, the site offers practical eco-information and ideas for kids and teachers.

Ecology Channel

http://www.ecology.com/

This site is the Web version of a cable-TV show. The educational magazine-style site strives to include information and articles from as many sources as possible so as to be unbiased. Features include Captain Seaweed and Crew, who keep kids informed about the ocean; op-ed articles from environmental activists; an image gallery of satellite photos taken from around the globe; and updates on endangered species rescue efforts. Links are provided to Greenpeace and the Nature Conservancy, among others. Of special interest to environmentalists, ecologists, conservationists, educators, parents, and kids.

For Teachers and Classrooms

Education Resources for Educators

http://www.edu-source.com/

This "virtual nature center" contains a growing archive of natural history materials that support environmental education. You will find several free mini poster lessons—often supported by an "in hands" activity that kids can do—free natural history clip art samples, fund raising items, and desktop publishing tutorials. Of particular value to educators and interpreters.

Classroom Connect on the Net

http://www.classroom.net

Site visitors can use an extensive meta-index of educational resources or they can get information about products Wentworth Worldwide Media has for educators. The site provides numerous connections to other resources, primary and secondary schools on the Internet, and links to primary and secondary education newsgroups. Also described here are newsletters, videotapes, prepackaged lesson plans, and more. K-12 teachers and students will find this site very useful.

Busy Teacher's Website: Ecology/ Environment

http://www.gatech.edu/lcc/idt/Students/Cole/Proj/K-12/eco.html

This site provides K-12 teachers with rapid access to quality source materials which are organized in a familiar way. Materials include lesson plans and classroom activities which require a minimum of site-to-site linking.

The GLOBE Project

http://globe.fsl.noaa.gov

The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) project offers a worldwide network of students, teachers, and scientists working together to study and understand the global environment. GLOBE students make a core set of environmental observations at or near their schools and report their data via the Internet. Scientists use GLOBE data in their research and provide feedback to the students to enrich their science education. Each day, images created from the GLOBE student data sets are posted on the World Wide Web, allowing students and visitors to the Website "visualize" the observations. By participating in GLOBE, teachers guide their students through daily, weekly, and seasonal environmental observations, measuring variables such as air temperature and precipitation. This is an excellent opportunity for K-12 teachers to integrate computers and the World Wide Web into classroom activities.

Voyage - Bringing the World To Your Classroom

http://www.cais.net/publish/voyage.htm

Reprinted articles and lively images from a variety of sources are offered for downloading through this online magazine. Well-organized into categories such as biodiversity and wildlife conservation, alternative energy and fuels, health, population, agriculture, clean air and water, marine ecology, waste management, and climate, the articles are useful to ecologists, scientists, students, and teachers. Students can use the articles for science projects and teachers may use articles in lesson plans. There are links directly to sources referenced in the articles.

ERIC Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education

http:www.ericse.org

Supported by the U.S. Department of Education, this site offers ERIC Digests online, publications for sale, links to other sites in the ERIC system, and access to the world's largest database of education-related materials. Useful to anyone interested in education topics.

Directories

Environment and Society Index—An Internet Resource Guide

http://www.rpi.edu/dept/environ/guide

Find information on environmental subjects, organizations, regional issues, or research. The Index covers subjects such as biodiversity, education, environmental justice, indigenous cultures, natural resources, recycling, wetlands, and wildlife. There are links to environmental journals, treaties, discussion groups and resource guides. This site provides unique resources of value to environmental scientists, ecologists, educators, students, researchers, and activists, but is of limited appeal to the general public.

Environmental Sites on the Internet

http://www.lib.kth.se/~lg/envsite.htm

Provides an extensive collection of links, searchable alphabetically by subject or by region, organization, etc. A good starting point for anyone seeking environmental information or resources.

Yahoo! Environment and Nature

http://www.yahoo.com/Environment_and_Nature/

Links to many sites related to topics such as: conservation, ecology, energy, environmental studdies, ozone depletion, pollution, sustainable development, and more. Useful to all.

World Wide Web Virtual Library: Environment

http://ecosys.drdr.virginia.edu/Environment.html

Large collection of links searchable by topic, including biodiversity, energy, forestry, oceanography, sustainable development, and more.

Galaxy Jewels: Environment

http://www.einet.net/GJ/environment.html

Hotlist of environmental sites, including several online library collections.

Earth and Environmental Science

http://info.er.usgs.gov/network/science/earth/index.html

This site provided by the U.S. Geological Survey offers an extensive collection of Internet resources that can be viewed by topic or searched by keyword. Useful reference site.

About the Author

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